

CLAIMS

1-99. Cancelled

100. (New) . A method for the evaluation of the gastric accommodation in a subject, comprising the steps of:

administering to said subject at least one meal comprising at least one constituent operative to cause retention of said at least one meal in the stomach of a subject, said at least one meal having a predetermined volume;

performing at least two measurements of a gastric emptying parameter of said at least one meal after different volumes of said meal have exited the stomach of the subject; and

evaluating the gastric accommodation of the subject from said measurements of gastric emptying parameter as a function of the volume of said meal having exited the subject's stomach.

101. (New) A method according to claim 100 wherein said at least one meal is one meal.

102. (New) A method according to claim 100 wherein at least one of said at least two measurements is performed on a liquid emptying phase of one of said at least one meal from the stomach of the subject.

103. (New) A method according to claim 100 wherein said at least one meal is at least two meals, and one of said at least two measurements is performed on a first one of said at least two meals, and a second one of said at least two measurements is performed on a second one of said at least two meals.

104. (New) A method according to claim 103 wherein said first one of said at least two meals is larger than the second one of said at least two meals.

105. (New) A method according to claim 103 wherein the volume of said second one of said at least two meals is larger than that of the first one of said at least two meals.

106. (New) A method according to claim 105 wherein the volume of said second one of said at least two meals is at least twice that of said first one of said at least two meals.

107. (New) A method according to claim 100 wherein one meal of said at least one meal comprises a marker which is detected after leaving the stomach of said subject.

108. (New) A method according to claim 107 and wherein said marker is detected by its presence in the exhaled breath of said subject.

109. (New) A method according to claim 107 and wherein said marker is detected by its presence within the body of said subject.

110. (New) A method according to claim 109 and wherein said marker is detected by its presence in the gastro-intestinal tract of said subject.

111. (New) A method according to claim 100, wherein said at least one meal comprises at least one of:

- a caloric value of at least 150 kcalories,
- a lipid content of at least 5 %;
- a carbohydrate content of at least 10 %;
- a protein content of at least 5%; and
- a pH value of less than 3.

112. (New) A method according to claim 111 wherein said carbohydrate is glucose.

113. (New) A method for the evaluation of the gastric accommodation in a subject, comprising the steps of:

administering to said subject a first liquid meal comprising a first predetermined volume;

administering to said subject, after said first liquid meal has begun emptying from the stomach of the subject, a second liquid meal comprising a second predetermined volume;

measuring at least one gastric emptying characteristic of said first meal and of said second meal; and

evaluating the gastric accommodation of the subject according to the deviation between said at least one gastric emptying characteristic of said second meal and said at least one gastric emptying characteristic of said first meal.

114. (New) A method according to claim 113 and wherein said second predetermined volume is sufficient to cause gastric distension in said subject.

115.(New) A method according to claim 113 and wherein said second predetermined volume is at least 500 milliliters of liquid.

116. (New) A method according to claim 113 and wherein at least one of said first and said second liquid meal has a predetermined gastric retention characteristic arising from at least one of a predetermined pH, a predetermined calorific value and a predetermined composition.

117. (New) A method according to claim 116 and wherein said predetermined gastric retention characteristic arises from at least one of a pH is less than 3.0, a calorific value of at least 150 kilocalories, and an isotonic predetermined composition.

118. (New) A method according to claim 113 and wherein said administering to said subject of said second liquid meal is performed as soon as said at least one gastric emptying characteristic of said first meal is determined.

119. (New) A method according to claim 113 and wherein said administering to said subject of said second liquid meal is performed after a time when essentially all physiological effects of said first meal on said subject have terminated.

120. (New) A method according to claim 119 and wherein said administering to said subject of said second liquid meal is performed on a successive day to said first meal.

121. (New) A method according to claim 113 wherein at least one of said first and second liquid meals comprises a marker which is detected after leaving the stomach of said subject.

122. (New) A method according to claim 121 and wherein said marker is detected by its presence in the exhaled breath of said subject.

123. (New) A method according to claim 121 and wherein said marker is detected by its presence within the body of said subject.

124. (New) A method according to claim 121 and wherein said marker is detected by its presence in the gastro-intestinal tract of said subject.

125. (New) A method according to claim 113 and wherein said gastric emptying characteristic is determined by one of a breath test, scintigraphy, an X-ray, computerized tomography, gamma imaging and an ultrasound method.

126. (New) A method for the evaluation of at least two of gastric accommodation, gastric emptying and visceral sensitivity of a subject, comprising the steps of:

administering to the subject a first liquid meal comprising a first predetermined volume;

administering to the subject, after said first liquid meal has begun emptying from the stomach of the subject, a second liquid meal comprising a second predetermined volume;

determining the gastric emptying rates of said first and second meal; utilizing said gastric emptying rates to determine the gastric accommodation level of the subject;

ascertaining the level of perceived dyspeptic symptoms of the subject at least upon administration of said first and said second meal; and

correlating said level of perceived dyspeptic symptoms of the subject with the volumes of said first and second meals to determine the level of visceral

sensitivity, such that at least two of gastric accommodation, gastric emptying and visceral sensitivity of a subject may be determined in a single procedure.

127. (New) A method according to claim 126, and wherein said first predetermined volume and said second predetermined volume are different.